



Greensboro Parks & Recreation Achieves National Accreditation Certification!



Since 1934, the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department has been “*Reaching Out, Touching Lives*” with outstanding programs and facilities for people of all ages, all abilities, and from all walks of life. Over the years, the success of the Department has been based largely on citizen involvement and community cooperation. Three-time winner of the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Administration, the Department continues to strive for the highest level of achievement in the leisure industry.

In 2004, the Department embarked upon a two-year process of gaining National Accreditation status. The Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department is highly-committed to developing a standard of excellence throughout the organization, which not only meets, but exceeds the national standards as set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). National accreditation requires park and recreation agencies to respond to 155 standards, representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations. To become accredited, agencies must demonstrate their ability to meet 36 fundamental standards and 85% of all other standards.

On October 11, 2006, the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department became one of only sixty-six agencies in the United States to receive national accreditation from CAPRA. This distinguished accomplishment was announced in Seattle, WA, during the NRPA Annual Congress. CAPRA is comprised of representatives from the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Managers Association, the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society, and the Council of State Executive Directors.

National Accreditation certification will help the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department to achieve better and safer services, programs and innovations as it continues “*Reaching Out, Touching Lives*” of area citizens, providing leisure recreation at its finest!

Some of the major benefits of quality leisure services include:

Individual Benefits

Psychological well-being
Quality of life
Fun
Personal development and growth
Pleasure
Sense of accomplishment
Self-esteem
Personal appreciation and satisfaction
Stress reduction
Sense of adventure
Creativity and adaptability
Outlets for stimulation
Life satisfaction
Physical health and maintenance
Full and meaningful live
Problem-solving and decision-making
Balance between work and play

Community Benefits

Lifelines for the elderly
Strong, vital, and involved communities
Reduced alienation
Connected families
Reduces delinquency
Ethnic, cultural understanding and harmony
Outlets for conflict resolution
Community pride
Social bonding
Support for youth
Understanding and tolerance

Economic Benefits

Revenue generator
Economic stimulant
Enhanced land values
Reduced healthcare costs
Catalyst for tourism
Reduced vandalism and crime
Productive workforce

Environmental Benefits

Environmental health and protection
Enhanced property values
Catalyst for relocation
Clean air and water
Physical health and well-being
Preservation of open space
Stress reduction
Protection of the ecosystem
Source of community pride
Environmental health and protection